Hartsburg-Emden Community Unit School District #21
Regular Board of Education Meeting
Wednesday, March 18, 2026 7:00 pm

The regular meeting of the Hartsburg-Emden Community Unit School District #21 Board of Education was held Wednesday, March 18, 2026 in the Superintendent's Office

Call to order

President Aper called the meeting to order at 7:00

Roll Call
On roll call, the following board members answered present: Aper, Cecil, Ballance, Cross, Doolin, and Sherwood.
Others present: Joe Yurko, Ashley Tetter-Rowden and Lauren DeJarnette
Absent: Wright

Consent agenda

A motion was made by Cecil and seconded by Cross to approve the consent agenda, including payment of bills and approval of minutes. Roll Call: Aper, yes; Sherwood, yes; Cecil, yes; Doolin, yes; Cross, yes and Ballance, yes.

Opportunity for citizens/visitors to speak

Kent Hieronymus addressed the board

Jenn Hayes addressed the board

Executive session

At 7:05pm a motion was made by Cross and seconded by Cecil to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. Roll Call: Cross, yes; Aper, yes; Doolin, yes; Cecil, yes; Sherwood, yes; and Ballance, yes. Motion 6-0

Return to open session

At 7:41pm a motion was made by Cecil and seconded by Doolin to return to Open Session. Roll Call: Cross, yes; Sherwood, yes; Aper, yes; Cecil, yes; Doolin, yes; and Ballance, yes. Motion 6-0

Superintendent's report

Roof Update*:** Partial updated; waiting for some other stuff to come in and the roof will be finished. Joe said that it is coming long and looking great. ***HS HVAC Update*:** Updated and working well, still taking time to warm up or cool down in certain parts of building. Fred will be working on the valves during the summer. ***Board Goal Setting Work: A brochure was sent to the board and they were pleased with it. Board talked and brought up the idea about forming a committee, wouldn't have to meet quarterly unless a big decision had to be made. Members Ballance and Cecil had been bouncing ideas off w/ each other on how to word certain committees. Ex: 2 school board members on a committee, 1 staff member from either building and 1 community member. Nothing set in stone for the time being; Brooke will send something out to the board and talk about at next meeting. ***26-27 IHSA Renewal:*** Renewing our membership for next school year.

Principal's Report

GS-Book fair week→sales were off to a great start; Family Reading Night was tonight; Jump Rope for Heart going on until Friday March 27th; 2 students for student of the month in February; finished IAR testing today as well.

JH/HS-IAR testing is done; PSAE will be around the corner; 5 essential surveys should be finishing up soon; Dani Dueringer named March LTEC Student of the Month

Action Items

Approve 2026-2027 IHSA Membership Renewal

A motion was made by Cross and seconded by Cecil. Roll Call: Sherwood, yes; Ballance, yes; Aper, yes; Cross, yes; Doolin, yes; Cecil, yes; and Doolin, yes. Motion 6-0

Approve Memorandum of Understanding with Collective Bargaining Unit

A motion was made by Cecil and seconded by Ballance. Roll Call: Sherwood, yes; Ballance, yes; Aper, yes; Cross, yes; Doolin, yes; Cecil, yes; and Doolin, yes. Motion 6-0

Approve 25-26 School Calendar Update

A motion was made by Cross and seconded by Cecil. Roll Call: Sherwood, yes; Ballance, yes; Aper, yes; Cross, yes; Doolin, yes; Cecil, yes; and Doolin, yes. Motion 6-0

Accept Resignation of Joe Yurko effective end of contract June 30, 2027

A motion was made by Cecil and seconded by Sherwood. Roll Call: Sherwood, yes; Ballance, yes; Aper, yes; Cross, yes; Doolin, yes; Cecil, yes; and Doolin, yes. Motion 6-0

Adjourn

At 8:03pm a motion was made by Cecil and seconded by Doolin. 6 yea, and 0 no.